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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 1821**
Mitsuhiro OKUNE et al. : Attorney Docket No. 2006_0772A
Serial No. 10/581,256 : Group Art Unit 1765
Filed May 31, 2006 :
PLASMA ETCHING METHOD : THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
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ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and any additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for:

- ☒ each U.S. Patent and U.S. Patent application publication;
- ☐ each reference previously cited in the international application
PCT/_____; and/or
- ☐ each reference previously cited in prior parent application Serial No.
_____.

1a. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, **or**

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

(1) ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**

(2) ☐ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified

a. ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or

b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☐ Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:

a. ☒ a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,

- b. ☐ a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
- c. ☐ the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
- d. ☒ the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
- e. ☒ the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:

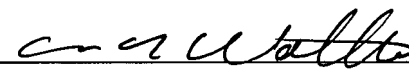
JP 8-250482 corresponds to U.S. 5,762,813;
JP 2003-100710 corresponds to U.S. 6,893,971, 2003/066817, and 2005/161160;
U.S. 6,191,043 corresponds to JP 2002-542623 (previously cited);
U.S. 2002/014662 corresponds to JP 2003-284283 (previously cited);
U.S. 6,521,538 corresponds to JP 2001-244325 (previously cited); and
U.S. 6,833,079 corresponds to JP 2003-533869 (previously cited).

- 5. ☒ Foreign patent office Office Actions (issued in connection with the Japanese Priority applications) citing one or more of the references is enclosed.
- 6. ☐ Statement Under 37 CFR 1.704(d)


Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart application, and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitsuhiro OKUNE et al.

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May 24, 2007

Sheet 1 of 1		INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT							
FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) Date Submitted to PTO: May 24, 2007				ATTY DOCKET NO. 2006_0772A		SERIAL NO. 10/581,256			
				APPLICANT Mitsuhiro OKUNE et al.					
				FILING DATE May 31, 2006		GROUP 1765			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS									
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE		
	AA	6,191,043	2/2001	McReynolds					
	AB	2002/0014662	2/2002	Yamazaki et al.					
	AC	5,762,813	6/1998	Takiyama et al.					
	AD	6,521,538	2/2003	Soga et al.					
	AE	6,833,079	12/2004	Giordani					
	AF	6,893,971	5/2005	Tanabe et al.					
	AG	2003/0066817	4/2003	Tanabe et al.					
	AH	2005/0161160	7/2005	Tanabe et al.					
	AI								
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS									
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO		
	AJ	11-150180	6/1999	JP			Abstract & Partial Translation		
	AK	8-250482	9/1996	JP			Abstract		
	AL	2003-100710	4/2003	JP			Abstract		
	AM								
	AN								
	AO								
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)									
	AP								
	AQ								
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED				

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include cop. this form with next communication to applicant.